

Message Text

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ORIGIN H-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00

NSC-05 PRS-01 L-03 /040 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, US, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH BASE AGREEMENT - SEN. EAGLETON'S REACTION

FOR AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY FROM JENKINS

1. WHEN I PHONED EAGLETON TO INFORM HIM OF THE DECISION TO SUBMIT AS A TREATY, HE EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION WITH THIS DECISION. HE THEN PHONED BACK AND ASKED THAT WE CABLE YOU THE FOLLOWING:
2. "NEWS RELEASE - JANUARY 23, 1976: EAGLETON PRAISES DECISION TO SUBMIT SPANISH AGREEMENT AS TREATY. SENATOR THOMAS F. EAGLETON (D-MO) TODAY PRAISED PRESIDENT FORD'S DECISION TO SUBMIT THE NEW AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN ON U.S. MILITARY BASES TO THE SENATE FOR RATIFICATION AS A TREATY.
3. "THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT CONCESSION TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF THE SENATE," EAGLETON SAID.
4. "IN THE CONTEXT OF MODERN TIMES, WHEN PRESIDENTS HAVE

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TOO READILY IGNORED CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS, THIS IS A

SIGNIFICANT GESTURE AND SHOULD HELP CLOSE THE GULF BETWEEN CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

5. 'IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT OUR BASIC RELATIONSHIP WITH SPAIN WILL NOT CHANGE AND THAT THE TREATY WILL NOT COMMIT THE UNITED STATES TO THE DEFENSE OF THAT NATION. THIS FACTOR SHOULD GREATLY ENHANCE THE CHANCES FOR SENATE RATIFICATION.

6. 'I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THE SENATE WILL NOW EXPEDITIOUSLY BUT THOROUGHLY CONSIDER THIS IMPORTANT AGREEMENT IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER.'" END TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE.

7. SENATOR EAGLETON ALSO WANTED TO ADD A PERSONAL NOTE TO YOU AS FOLLOWS:

8. "DEAR BOB: CONGRATULATIONS ON REACHING AGREEMENT AND ON DECISION TO SUBMIT AS TREATY. VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR KEEPING ME INFORMED OF EVENTS. TOM EAGLETON" SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE017743
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KBJENKINS:RMS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760026-1070
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760126/aaaaawpm.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH BASE AGREEMENT - SEN. EAGLETON'S REACTION FOR AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY FROM JENKINS
TAGS: MARR, US, SP, (EAGLETON, THOMAS F)
To: BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006